

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P 211815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 744

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - GROUND SERVICES AT ROME AIRPORTS

REF: ROME 4690 AND PREVIOUS

1. ACCORDING LOCAL US CARRIER REPS, UNIONS ARE NOW PRESSURING ROME AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (SOCIETA AEROPORTI DE ROME --SAR) TO CLOSE AIRLINES TICKET SALES BOOTHS WHEN SAR TAKES OVER GROUND SERVICES. UNTIL NOW, SAR HAD INDICATED CARRIERS COULD MAINTAIN A TICKET SALES/INFORMATION BOOTH AT FIUMICINO WHEN SAR BEGAN TO OPERATE CHECK-IN COUNTER SERVICE. BUT UNIONS, BELIEVING CARRIERS MIGHT TRY OPERATE CHECK-IN SERVICE FROM TICKETSALES/INFORMATION BOOTHS DURING (FREQUENT) STRIKES AT FIUMICINO, HAVE DEMANDED THAT SAR CLOSE BOOTHS AS WELL. UNIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY GIVEN SAR UNTIL COB APRIL 22 TO DECIDE IN PRINCIPLE WHETHER TO ACCEDE TO LATEST DEMAND.

2. ALITALIA NOT RPT NOT AFFECTED BY UNION DEMANDS, SINCE IT WILL CONTINUE FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD TO PROVIDE OWN GROUND SERVICES, INCLUDING CHECK-IN COUNTERS, TICKET SALES AND INFORMATION BOOTH, FROM ITS HALF OF AIRPORT TERMINAL. IF SAR ACCEPTS UNIONS DEMAND, ONLY RPT ONLY ALITALIA WILL HAVE ANY SORT OF READILY IDENTIFIED CUSTOMER SERVICE FACILITIES AT FIUMICINO. SUCH ARRANGEMENT OBVIOUSLY DISCRIMINATORY AND, IN ADDITION, WOULD HAVE ADVERSE AFFECT ON PAA/TWA REVENUE BECAUSE OF NEED TO PAY COMMISSIONS ON TICKETS NOW SOLD BY PAA/TWA PERSONNEL.

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3. UPON BEING INFORMED OF SITUATION ON APRIL 21, EMBOFF IMMEDIATELY LODGED STRONG ORAL PROTEST WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, CIVAIR AFFAIRS). (TIME TOO SHORT FOR PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF NOTE VERBALE.) FIACCADORI PROMISED CHECK INTO SITUATION AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT EXPECT SAR WILL BE WILLING BUCK UNION PRESSURES. (EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT FOR 1600 LOCAL APRIL 22 WITH SAR TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES.) AT THIS POINT NEITHER GOI NOT ANY INDIVIDUAL MINISTRY APPEARS WILLING GO TO BAT FOR FOREIGN CARRIERS. ALITALIA, WHICH IS SOLE BENEFICIARY FROM GROUND SERVICES TAKEOVER BY SAR, OF COURSE CLAIMS IT IN NO WAY INVOLVED. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, USG HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE TO PERSUADE GOI TO TAKE ON UNIONS OVER THIS ISSUE, UNLESS MATTER RAISED TO HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL, SINCE COVAIR STRUCTURE IN US APPEARS TO PRECLUDE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS' ON ALITALIA OPERATIONS IN THE US.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. THAT THE DEPARTMENT CALL IN AMBASSADOR ORTONA AT A HIGH LEVEL AND TELL HIM HOW SERIOUSLY WE VIEW THESE ACTIONS WHICH ARE COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH TRADITIONAL AIRLINE PRACTICES IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. (WE UNDERSTAND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES USE SUCH METHODS.) APPROACH TO ORTONA IS PROBABLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO REGISTER OUR VIEWS WITH THE GOI QUICKLY.  
BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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